

Remarks

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed May 20, 2008. Claims 20-29 are pending. Claims 20, 24, 28, and 29 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed at, for example, paragraphs 0100-0102 and 0106-0111, and FIGS. 26-29. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20-29 are rejected as being unpatentable over Mathews (US 6,033,406) in view of Luque (US 4,790,297) and Foley (US 5,792,044) and Davison (US 2001/0011170). None of the references, either alone or in combination, appear to teach or suggest the elements of independent claims 20, 24, 28, and 29. Mathews and Luque each appear to teach a fixation system including screws and plates. Foley and Davison do not appear to teach any particular fixation components. Neither Mathews nor Luque appears to teach fasteners including a screw and housing, where the is moveable relative to the screw to achieve a desired orientation. Mathews and Luque appear to teach a system in which screws are used to secure a plate, but the screws do not appear to have a component that is moveable relative to the implanted screw to vary the orientation of the plate with respect to the screws. Further, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the systems or methods of Mathews and Luque to achieve the specific method steps recited in independent claims 20, 24, 28, and 29. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is submitted that, in light of the above remarks, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Date: _____

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